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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OMAR ARNOLDO RIVERA
MARTINEZ; ISAAC ANTONIO
LOPEZ CASTILLO; JOSUE
VLADIMIR CORTEZ DIAZ; JOSUE
MATEO LEMUS CAMPOS;
MARVIN JOSUE GRANDE
RODRIGUEZ; ALEXANDER
ANTONIO BURGOS MEJIA; LUIS
PENA GARCIA; JULIO CESAR
BARAHONA CORNEJO, as
individuals,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE GEO GROUP, Inc., a Florida
corporation; the CITY OF
ADELANTO, a municipal entity; GEO
LIEUTENANT DURAN, sued in her
individual capacity; GEO
LIEUTENANT DIAZ, sued in her
individual capacity; GEO
SERGEANT CAMPOS, sued in his
individual capacity; SARAH JONES,
sued in her individual capacity; THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
and DOES 1-10, individuals,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:18-cv-01125-SP

**DEFENDANTS THE GEO GROUP,
INC. AND CITY OF ADELANTO'S
REPLY TO PLAINTIFFS'
OPPOSITION TO THEIR MOTION
FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT OR,
IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PARTIAL
SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Hearing Date: December 17, 2019
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Courtroom: 3

Magistrate Judge: Honorable Sheri Pym

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1 Defendants THE GEO GROUP, INC. ("GEO") and CITY OF ADELANTO
 2 ("City"; collectively, GEO and the City are hereinafter referred to as "Defendants")
 3 hereby reply to Plaintiffs' Opposition (Doc. #117) to Defendants' Motion for
 4 Summary Judgment, or in the alternative, Partial Summary Judgment (Doc. # 108.).

5 **I. INTRODUCTION.**

6 Plaintiffs fail to create material disputes of fact that require a jury to decide,
 7 so this Court should grant Defendants summary judgment based on the law.

8 **II. THERE IS NO LEGAL AUTHORITY THAT SUPPORTS**
 9 **PLAINTIFFS SECTION 1983 CLAIMS AGAINST GEO.**

10 Plaintiffs' claims under Section 1983 (claims 5-7) against GEO are barred as
 11 a matter of law and Plaintiffs fail to cite any relevant legal authority that
 12 demonstrates otherwise. *Russell v. U.S. Dep't of the Army*, 191 F.3d 1016, 1019
 13 (9th Cir. 1999). Plaintiffs' arguments ignore the undisputed evidence that GEO was
 14 performing the functions of ICE, a federal actor, at the time of the incident and, as a
 15 result, under *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Fed. Bureau of Narcotics*, 403
 16 U.S. 388 (1971), the only possible claims that can be brought against GEO are
 17 *Bivens* claims – not Section 1983 claims. Moreover, pursuant to *Minnecci v. Pollard*,
 18 565 U.S. 118 (2012), GEO, a private actor, cannot be held liable for *Bivens* claims
 19 because it was performing the functions of a federal actor at the time of the incident
 20 and their only recourse against GEO is tort claims. As demonstrated in the moving
 21 papers and below, Plaintiffs' Section 1983 claim must fail as a matter of law.

22 **A. The Court Has Never Determined That GEO Is Liable For Section**
 23 **1983 Claims.**

24 Plaintiffs' first argument -- that the Court has already determined that Section
 25 1983 is applicable -- rests on an inaccurate summation of the record and flawed
 26 reasoning. Simply stated, the court has *never* made such a determination and a
 27 cursory review of the filings in this matter dispels Plaintiffs' claims otherwise.
 28

1 Defendant Sarah Jones,¹ an employee of GEO's subcontractor Corrective
 2 Care Solutions, argued on motion to dismiss that she was neither a state nor local
 3 government official, and that she did not engage in a state action. (Doc. # 53 at 3:5-
 4 14.) She argued that, instead, she was a private person. (*Id.* at 3:15-6:21.) However,
 5 Defendant Jones never argued on motion to dismiss that she could not be liable for
 6 Section 1983 claims as a matter of law because she was an employee of a private
 7 company that was performing the functions of a federal actor as Defendants have
 8 here. She never introduced evidence that demonstrates the Adelanto ICE Processing
 9 Center ("Facility") is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland
 10 Security ("DHS")/the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 11 ("ICE") and *not* the state. She never even cited *Bivens* or *Minneci* in her motion.

12 Evaluating the arguments put forth in Defendant Jones' motion, the Court
 13 likewise did not analyze whether Defendant Jones could be liable under Section
 14 1983 in light of *Bivens* and *Minneci*, nor did the Court consider that the Facility is a
 15 federal detention center. The court relied on *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42 (1988), and
 16 found Defendant Jones could be held liable as a state actor based on the allegations
 17 in the operative complaint. (Doc. # 69.) However, in its analysis, the Court
 18 presumed the Facility was under the jurisdiction of the state and, thus, did *not*
 19 analyze the issue of whether Jones was a private party performing the functions of a
 20 federal actor. This is confirmed by the Court's reliance on *West*, a case which
 21 involved a physician operating under a contract with a *state* to provide orthopedic
 22 services at a *state*-prison hospital. *West*, 487 U.S. at 42. Unlike the facts found in
 23 *West*, here, the undisputed evidence demonstrates that the City and, accordingly, its
 24 delegate GEO (and its employees), was operating under a contract with ICE, a
 25 *federal* actor, to provide services at Adelanto Detention Center ("Facility"), a
 26 *federal* detention center for immigrant detainees. (*See* Doc. # 108-2 [GEO and
 27

28 ¹ Defendant Jones was represented by separate defense counsel.

City's App.], Ex. "A" [Detainee Handbook] at 5 ("The Adelanto Detention Facility (ADF) is located in Adelanto, California, and is privately operated by [GEO] under contract with the [City], who has entered into an Intergovernmental Services Agreement (IGSA) with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICB)"); Ex. "M" [Services Contract].)

Consequently, it is inaccurate to state that the Court has already determined that GEO is a state actor and, thus, Plaintiffs' Section 1983 claim are viable, because the argument that GEO was fulfilling the roles of a federal actor has *never* even been raised in this case.

B. Plaintiffs' Legal Authority Does Not Support Their Arguments.

The cases cited by Plaintiffs do not support their argument that GEO is state actor and, thus, liable for Section 1983 claims.

Plaintiffs rely on *Oyenik v. Corizon Health Inc.*, 696 Fed. Appx. 792 (9th Cir. 2017)(unpublished) to support the proposition that GEO/the City were acting under color of state law. However, *Oyenik* is not applicable. *Oyenik* involved a private corporation that contracted with a *state* to provide medical treatment at a *state* facility. *Id.* at 794. The court did not analyze whether Section 1983 was applicable (presumably, because it was clear that the plaintiff can bring section 1983 claims given it was a state run facility) and "assum[ed], without deciding, that *Monell* applie[d] in [that] context." *Id.* Here, however, the issue is whether a municipality (the City) and its private corporation contractor (GEO) can be liable for Section 1983 claims when the City contracts with a *federal actor* (DHS/ICE) to operate a *federal* detention center. (See Doc. # 108-2 [GEO and City's App.], Ex. "A" [Detainee Handbook] at 5; Ex. "M" [Services Contract].) Unlike *Oyenik*, here, there is no evidence that the state of California was in any way involved with the Facility or any of the agreements in this case. *Oyenik* is simply not relevant.

Plaintiffs then argue, in short, that *other* courts have found that GEO can be liable under Section 1983 and, thus, GEO must be a state actor. This argument is

1 flawed. The two cases that Plaintiffs rely on to support this argument, *Winger* and
 2 *Womack*, involve fact patterns where GEO was operating *local* correctional
 3 facilities (jails) and not federal detention centers housing immigrant detainees.²

4 For example, in *Winger v. City of Garden Grove*, 2014 WL 12852387, at *1
 5 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 27, 2014), GEO contracted with the City of Garden Grove to
 6 provide correctional services at the Garden Grove City jail. On motion to dismiss,
 7 counsel for GEO argued private entities could not be liable for constitutional claims
 8 when there were available state law remedies and relied on *Minnecci v. Pollard*, 132
 9 S. Ct. 617 (2012), which held federal prisoners seeking damages from a private
 10 corporation and/or its personnel do not have a *Bivens* remedy. The court held GEO
 11 could be liable under Section 1983 because it was acting under color of state law
 12 (e.g. under a contract with the City of Garden Grove to run a jail covered by state
 13 regulations). *Id* at 2. Moreover, the court found *Minnecci* inapplicable because it
 14 involved *federal* employees and the court was unwilling to extend the *Minnecci*
 15 holding to cases involving state actors:

16 “Defendant argues that courts treat *Bivens* and section
 17 1983 doctrines as parallel. True, *Bivens* and section 1983
 18 share much in common.... But the doctrines are
 19 nonetheless distinct.... The Court is not convinced that,
 20 by refusing to expand the reach of one of the doctrines,
 the Supreme Court intended to implicitly overrule its
 precedent concerning the other.”

21 *Id.* at 2. In other words, while GEO made a similar argument in *Winger*, the
 22 argument was not availing because the jail was a local facility operated under state
 23 regulations – which is not the case here as Adelanto is subject to ICE policies.
 24 Thus, the court’s holding in *Winger* is inapplicable.

25 Plaintiffs also cite to *Womack v. GEO Group, Inc.*, CV-12-1524-PHX-SRB,
 26 2013 WL 491979, at *1 (D. Ariz. Feb. 8, 2013), which involved an *inmate* confined

27 ² GEO is a private company that operates both corrections (state) and detention
 28 (federal) facilities. Its clients include the California Department of Corrections and
 Rehabilitation (CDCR), various cities, the U.S. Marshal’s Office, and ICE.

1 at a private correctional facility. The correctional facility was owned and operated
 2 by GEO, which had *contracted with the State* to incarcerate prisoners. Significantly,
 3 the court did not even analyze any substantive issues, including whether the
 4 plaintiff could bring Section 1983 claims against GEO. *Id.* at 7 (demonstrating the
 5 court analyzed the plaintiff's motion to amend the complaint, plaintiff's request for
 6 entry of default, and the defendant's motion for leave to amend the answer). Even if
 7 it had, the holding would not be determinative here given the case involved a state-
 8 run correctional facility.

9 Accordingly, all of the cases that Plaintiffs rely on to support their argument
 10 that Section 1983 claims can be brought in this case (*West v. Atkins*, *Oyenik v.*
 11 *Corizon*, *Winger v. City of Garden Grove*, and *Womack v. GEO Group, Inc.*) are
 12 inapplicable. For purposes of this motion, GEO does not dispute that a private
 13 entity operating a state facility can be held liable under Section 1983 as held in the
 14 aforementioned cases. However, it is undisputed that this matter involves parties
 15 performing the functions of federal actors at an ICE (federal) detention facility. For
 16 this reason, Section 1983 is inapplicable as a matter of law.

17 **C. Minneeci And Bivens Are Applicable Because GEO Was**
 18 **Performing Federal Functions.**

19 Plaintiffs argue that the cases relied on by Defendants to demonstrate that
 20 GEO cannot be liable under Section 1983 are inapposite because the cases involve
 21 "federal rather than municipal actors." Plaintiffs belabor that GEO directly
 22 contracted with the City and not ICE in an effort to negate the undisputed evidence
 23 that (1) the Facility is a federal detention center under the jurisdiction of DHS/ICE;
 24 and (2) the contract between GEO and City required GEO to assume all of the
 25 City's responsibilities and obligations under the intergovernmental service
 26 agreement with ICE. Alternately stated, GEO entered into contract with ICE for the
 27 detention and care of immigrant detainees at the Facility through a service
 28 agreement with the City. (See Doc. # 108-2 [GEO and City's App.], Ex. "A")

1 [Detainee Handbook] at 5; Ex. “M” [Services Contract].) Thus, cases involving
 2 federal actors are the only cases that are applicable.

3 In *Correctional Services Corp. v. Malesko*, 534 U.S. 61 (2001), a federal
 4 inmate at a federal correction facility that was operated by a private company
 5 brought a *Bivens* claim against the private company. The Supreme Court of the
 6 United States held the inmate could *not* bring a *Bivens* claim against the private
 7 corporation:

8 “*Bivens*’ limited holding may not be extended to confer a
 9 right of action for damages against private entities acting
 under color of federal law...

10 *Bivens*’ purpose is to deter individual federal officers, not
 11 the agency, from committing constitutional
 12 violations. *Meyer* made clear, *inter alia*, that the threat of
 13 suit against an individual’s employer was not the kind of
 deterrence contemplated by *Bivens*. [Citation omitted].
 14 This case is, in every meaningful sense, the same. For if a
 corporate defendant is available for suit, claimants will
 15 focus their collection efforts on it, and not the individual
 16 directly responsible for the alleged injury.

17 On *Meyer*’s logic, inferring a constitutional tort
 18 remedy against a private entity like CSC is therefore
 foreclosed.”

19 *Correctional Services Corp. v. Malesko*, 534 U.S. 61, 62 (2001).

20 Thereafter, in *Minneeci v. Pollard*, 565 U.S. 118, 120 (2012), the Supreme
 21 Court of the United States asked “whether [it] can imply the existence of an Eighth
 22 Amendment-based damages action (a *Bivens* action) against employees of a
 23 privately operated federal prison.”³ The Supreme Court found that it could not. *Id.*
 24 In *Minneeci*, the plaintiff was a prisoner at a federal facility operated by a private
 25 company and brought an Eighth Amendment claim against the private company and

26 ³ Plaintiffs seem to conflate the issue of this case. Again, Defendants do not dispute
 27 for purposes of this motion that *Minneeci* does not extend to section 1983 claims.
 28 Defendants are, however, disputing that GEO was a state actor thus exposing it to
 Section 1983 liability. Because they were not state actors, *Minneeci*, which relates to
 federal actors, is applicable.

its employees. *Id.* at 121. The Supreme Court held as follows:

“For these reasons, where, as here, a federal prisoner seeks damages from privately employed personnel working at a privately operated federal prison, where the conduct allegedly amounts to a violation of the Eighth Amendment, and where that conduct is of a kind that typically falls within the scope of traditional state tort law (such as the conduct involving improper medical care at issue here), the prisoner must seek a remedy under state tort law. We cannot imply a *Bivens* remedy in such a case.”

Id. at 131. Thus, as demonstrated in *Malesko* and *Minneeci*, Plaintiffs’ Section 1983 claims against GEO must fail as a matter of law because Plaintiffs can only pursue state law tort claims against GEO.

III. IF PLAINTIFFS’ SECTION 1983 CLAIMS ARE VIABLE, PLAINTIFFS NEVERTHELESS FAIL TO DEMONSTRATE A GENUINE DISPUTE AS TO THEIR *MONELL* CLAIMS.

As a preliminary matter, Plaintiffs for the first time articulate their *Monell* claims (claims 5-7) against Defendants in their Opposition.⁴ Their claims, which were previously boilerplate allegations that GEO’s and the City’s policies, practices and/or customs were a cause of Plaintiffs’ alleged injuries and that GEO and the City failed to train GEO’s employees, are now limited to the following: (1) the City and GEO *ratified* the decisions of Campos and Diaz to use force and the force used during the incident;⁵ (2) the City and GEO *failed to train* GEO officers Diaz and

⁴ Significantly, in Opposition to Defendants’ motion, Plaintiffs raise new allegations that were not included in Plaintiffs’ Second Amended Complaint. Thus, on Reply, Defendants are for the first time addressing Plaintiffs’ new allegations. *Gilmour v. Gates, McDonald and Co.*, 382 F.3d 1312, 1315 (11th Cir. 2004) (“At the summary judgment stage, the proper procedure for plaintiffs to assert a new claim is to amend the complaint in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a). A plaintiff may not amend her complaint through argument in a brief opposing summary judgment.”).

⁵ Plaintiffs argue that GEO policymakers ratified the use of excessive force, retaliation, and due process violations. However, the evidence demonstrates that the only conduct that was reviewed after the incident was the alleged use of force incident during the after-action review. (Doc. # 108-2 [GEO and City App.], Ex.

Campos on the meaning of a “rebellion” and “disturbance” under GEO’s policies and procedures; (3) the City and GEO *failed to train* Campos on the safe distance to stand away from a subject when deploying OC spray; (4) the City and GEO *failed to train* supervisory GEO staff because GEO failed to provide “refresher training every two years to officials with OC spray”; (5) the City and GEO’s policy of “not having cold water inside the facility” caused a constitutional deprivation (i.e., the alleged inability to properly decontaminate Plaintiffs after the use of OC spray resulted in a Fourth/Fourteenth Amendment violation); and (6) the City and GEO’s policy of blocking the Plaintiffs’ telephone calls (the alleged retaliatory conduct) regarding their alleged hunger strike and excessive force (their alleged protected speech) resulted in a constitutional deprivation (i.e., a violation of their First Amendment rights).⁶ (See Pls. Second Am. Compl. (“SAC”) ¶¶ 71, 110, 118, 126 (demonstrating Plaintiffs’ boilerplate claims against GEO and the City).)

Assuming Plaintiffs can demonstrate a constitutional deprivation – a critical first hurdle that they *cannot* overcome as demonstrated in the individual defendants’ motion for summary judgment and below – Plaintiffs’ claims are nevertheless unsupported by the law and admissible evidence.

A. There Is No Legal Authority That Supports The Argument That The City Is Liable Under *Monell* For The Policies Of GEO.

“*Monell* is a case about responsibility.” *Pembaur v. City of Cincinnati*, 475 U.S. 469, 478 (1986). Here, Plaintiffs seek to expand the holding of *Monell v. Dep’t. of Social Services*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978) by arguing that two separate entities, the City and GEO, can both be liable under *Monell* for one entity’s (GEO’s) policies

“E” [After-Action Review].) Thus, Plaintiffs conclusory statements that the alleged retaliatory conduct and due process violations were also ratified are without merit and, for purposes of efficiency, will not be further addressed herein.

⁶ In Opposition to Diaz and Campos’ motion for summary judgment, Plaintiffs’ did not oppose Diaz and Campos motion to summarily adjudicate their fifth claim for First Amendment retaliation. (See Doc. # 116 at 3 n. 1.) However, Plaintiffs maintain their *Monell* claim relates to their fifth claim.

1 and procedures, training, and ratification of specific conduct. In other words,
 2 Plaintiffs attempt to hold the City vicariously liable under *Monell* for GEO's
 3 policies and procedures and conduct, which is expressly prohibited under *Monell*.
 4 Plaintiffs fail to cite any relevant case law or legal authority to support their
 5 strenuous proposition and, instead, provide a misguided argument that the City
 6 delegated its authority to establish municipal policy to *GEO employees*, James
 7 Janecka and Leo McCusker, in order to establish liability of the City under *Monell*.
 8 Irrespective of how Plaintiffs attempt to disguise their vicarious liability claim, at
 9 the end of the day, Plaintiffs should not be permitted to re-write the law simply to
 10 satisfy their search for an additional deep pocket.

11 **1. Plaintiffs Cannot Demonstrate The City Caused The**
 12 **Constitutional Violation.**

13 In *Monell*, the court concluded that municipalities could be liable under
 14 Section 1983 and, in doing so, emphasized the importance of causation: that the
 15 government actor could only be liable where its official policy caused its employee
 16 to violate another's constitutional rights. *Id.* at 692 ("Indeed, the fact that Congress
 17 did specifically provide that A's tort became B's liability if B 'caused' A to subject
 18 another to a tort suggests that Congress did not intend § 1983 liability to attach
 19 where such causation was absent."); *City of Canton, Ohio v. Harris*, 489 U.S. 378,
 20 385 (1989) ("In *Monell v. New York City Dept. of Social Services* ... we decided
 21 that a municipality can be found liable under § 1983 only where the municipality
 22 itself causes the constitutional violation at issue.").

23 While "Congress never questioned its power to impose civil liability on
 24 municipalities for their own illegal acts, [it] did doubt its constitutional power to
 25 impose such liability in order to oblige municipalities to control the conduct of
 26 others." *Pembaur v. City of Cincinnati*, 475 U.S. 469, 479 (1986). Because of these
 27 doubts, courts have found that Section 1983 is not be interpreted to incorporate
 28 doctrines of vicarious liability and, thus, a plaintiff must "demonstrate that, through

1 its *deliberate* conduct, the municipality was the ‘moving force’ behind the injury
 2 alleged.” *Bd. of Cnty. Com'rs of Bryan County, Okl. v. Brown*, 520 U.S. 397, 404
 3 (1997). “That is, a plaintiff must show that the municipal action was taken with the
 4 requisite degree of culpability and must demonstrate a direct causal link between
 5 the municipal action and the deprivation of federal rights.” *Id.*

6 Here, there is no evidence that the City’s policies or procedures, training, or
 7 policymaker’s ratification of conduct caused any constitutional deprivation (which
 8 Plaintiffs admit, as discussed below). Plaintiffs cannot satisfy the causation
 9 requirement of their *Monell* claim against the City and, as result, Plaintiffs’ *Monell*
 10 claims against the City must be summarily adjudicated.

11 **2. Plaintiffs’ Ratification Argument Related To The City Is** 12 **Misguided.**

13 Plaintiffs admit that the City’s policies and procedures and training did not
 14 cause a constitutional deprivation. Plaintiffs likewise admit that no City employees
 15 ratified the conduct of the GEO employees. Instead, Plaintiffs put forth a misguided
 16 argument that the City “delegated” the aforementioned duties and its policymaker
 17 authority to GEO and, thus, the City is liable under a theory of ratification. Without
 18 *any* citations to law or legal authority, Plaintiffs state in a conclusory fashion that
 19 the City can be liable for the policies of its independent contractor under *Monell* to
 20 whom it has delegated final policymaking authority. This is not the law.

21 First, Plaintiffs’ argument that the City delegated its policymaker authority to
 22 GEO and, thus, it is liable for GEO’s policies and procedures, training, and
 23 policymaker’s decisions is severely misguided. For purposes of *Monell* claims, the
 24 phrase “delegated” is a term of art that is relevant in the context of ratification,
 25 which is one of the three means to establish *Monell* liability ((1) an unconstitutional
 26 policy, practice, custom; (2) lack of training, or (3) ratification)). Plaintiffs fail to
 27 cite and Defendants are not aware of any cases where a court held that a
 28 municipality, through a contract with a vendor to provide services, is deemed to

1 have “delegated” and, thereafter, “ratified” the contractor’s written policies and
 2 procedures, training procedures, and/or policymaker’s decisions for purposes of
 3 *Monell* liability.

4 Second, ratification is a theory that holds a municipality liable for a “single
 5 decision” made by the municipality’s official. Typically, this argument arises in
 6 scenarios where an employee of the municipality has approved and furthered the
 7 alleged unconstitutional conduct of a subordinate, such as in an officer-involved
 8 shooting. Plaintiffs fail to cite and Defendants are not aware of any cases where a
 9 court held written policies and procedures and training procedures are singular
 10 decisions subject to the same ratification analysis. Plaintiffs’ attempt to conflate the
 11 three theories of liability under *Monell* is an incorrect application of the law.

12 Third, to impose municipal liability for a single decision by municipal
 13 policymakers (e.g., ratification), a plaintiff must demonstrate that the decision was
 14 made by the municipal’s “properly constituted legislative body” or officials “whose
 15 acts or edicts may fairly be said to represent official policy.” *Pembaur*, 475 U.S. at
 16 479-480. To determine whether a municipal officer can subject a municipality to
 17 liability, the *Pembaur* court held as follows:

18 “[W]e hasten to emphasize that not every decision by
 19 municipal officers automatically subjects the municipality
 20 to § 1983 liability. **Municipal liability attaches only
 21 where the decisionmaker possesses final authority to
 22 establish municipal policy with respect to the action
 23 ordered. ... The official must also be responsible for
 24 establishing final government policy respecting such
 25 activity before the municipality can be held
 26 liable.** Authority to make municipal policy may be
 27 granted directly by a legislative enactment or may be
 28 delegated by an official who possesses such authority, and
 of course, **whether an official had final policymaking
 authority is a question of state law.**”

Here, there is no evidence that GEO or any of its employees had the
 responsibility to establish final government policy on behalf of the City. There is no

1 evidence of a state or municipal law (e.g. a city's Charter) that grants GEO or any
 2 of its employees this authority. While Plaintiffs direct the court's attention to the
 3 contract between the City and GEO, this is unavailing as the contract does not grant
 4 GEO or its employees this authority. Plaintiffs seemingly acknowledge the
 5 admissible evidence does not support their theory and, thus, also argue that "in
 6 practice" the City has delegated its policymaker authority to GEO. (*See* Doc. # 117
 7 at 10:18-19.). However, there is no case law or legal authority that supports this
 8 argument, including the cases cited by Plaintiffs in their Opposition. *See Ulrich v.*
 9 *City and County of San Francisco*, 308 F.3d 968, 985 (9th Cir. 2002) (holding the
 10 plaintiff, an employee of a municipal-run hospital, failed to demonstrate a
 11 defendant, also an employee of the municipal -run hospital, had final policymaking
 12 authority because mere discretion to make decisions was insufficient to establish
 13 policymaking authority when the city's charter and hospital bylaws did not grant
 14 the defendant final policymaking authority); *Christie v. Iopa*, 176 F.3d 1231, 1239
 15 (9th Cir. 1999) (holding plaintiff could not establish a county employee ratified
 16 conduct, thus subjecting the county to municipal liability, where the county
 17 employee was unaware of the alleged constitutional violation); *Lytle v. Carl*, 382
 18 F.3d 978 (9th Cir. 2004) (determining whether a school district superintendent and
 19 assistant superintendent were final policymakers as required for school district
 20 liability).

21 Consequently, Plaintiffs' theory that the City somehow delegated and, thus,
 22 ratified GEO's policies and procedures, training procedures, and policymaker's
 23 decision is misguided, unavailing, and unsupported by any legal authority.

24 **3. Martinez And Villarreal Are Instructive.**

25 Plaintiffs' summation of *Martinez v. Monterey County Sheriffs Off.*, 18-CV-
 26 00475-BLF, 2019 WL 176791, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 11, 2019), which Defendants
 27 rely on in their moving papers, omits critical facts that demonstrate *Martinez* is in
 28

1 fact instructive here. As described in Defendants' motion, in *Martinez*, the county
 2 defendant, Monterey, owned a jail and contracted out medical services to a third
 3 party vendor, California Forensic Medical Group Inc. ("CFMG"). *Id.* at 3. The
 4 plaintiff alleged that policies of CFMG were attributable to Monterey through
 5 CFMG's contract with Monterey. *Id.* The court opined that to sufficiently state a
 6 *Monell* claim against Monterey, the plaintiff must allege "Monterey has some
 7 independent policy that is the moving force behind CFMG's policy or [] instead
 8 Monterey's policy is to ratify and adopt CFMG's allegedly unconstitutional policy."
 9 *Id.* at 4. "If the latter, additional facts are required to show that Monterey had a
 10 policy of adopting or otherwise authorizing CFMG's policy [and] Monterey's
 11 contract with CFMG alone is not sufficient." *Id.* (emphasis added).

12 Similarly, Plaintiffs' cursory review of *Villarreal v. County of Monterey*, 254
 13 F. Supp. 3d 1168, 1193 (N.D. Cal. 2017) ignores the relevant portion of the case:
 14 the *Monell* analysis related to the defendant City. In *Villarreal*, the plaintiff sought
 15 to hold the defendant city liable for three claims under Section 1983. While the
 16 plaintiff did not explicitly state the claims were brought as *Monell* claims (similar
 17 to Plaintiffs' claims here), the court interpreted the three claims as *Monell* claims
 18 given that is the only means to hold a municipality liable under Section 1983. *Id.* at
 19 1195. The court found the plaintiff's complaint failed to sufficiently plead a *Monell*
 20 claim against the defendant city because, in pertinent part, allege that the defendant
 21 city's policy, custom, or practice was the moving force behind the constitutional
 22 violation. *Id.* The court emphasized that "the allegations in the complaint give
 23 strong reason to doubt that the [individual defendant] CSU Officers were acting
 24 pursuant to the City's policies, customs, and practices because the CSU Officers
 25 were only temporary independent contractors rather than employees of the police
 26 department." *Id.*

27 Here, similar to *Martinez* and *Villarreal*, the record demonstrates that it was
 28 the City's policy and procedure to thoroughly vet GEO before contracting with

1 GEO to provide the requisite services at the Facility. (SUF # 3-5.) Thereafter, the
 2 day to day operations of the Facility were governed by the policies and procedures
 3 established by GEO, and the officers employed by GEO were acting pursuant to
 4 GEO's policies, customs, and practices and *not* the City's policies, customs, and
 5 practices because, in part, the officers were subcontractors rather than employees or
 6 agents of the City. (SUF # 1-2, 6.)

7 Based on the foregoing, the City cannot be held liable under any *Monell*
 8 theory of liability. *Villarreal*, 254 F. Supp. 3d at 1195.

9 **B. GEO Did Not Ratify Any Unconstitutional Deprivations.**

10 Plaintiffs argue that GEO's policymakers, Janecka and McCusker, ratified
 11 the decisions to use force and the force used by GEO officers during the incident.
 12 However, the admissible evidence demonstrates that GEO's policymakers were not
 13 affirmatively or actively involved in conduct that ratified the actions of Campos and
 14 Diaz so as to warrant liability under *Monell*.

15 To show ratification, a plaintiff must prove that the "authorized policymakers
 16 approve a subordinate's decision *and the basis for it...*" *City of St. Louis v.*
 17 *Praprotnik*, 485 U.S. 112, 127 (1988) (emphasis added). *Christie*, 176 F.3d at 1240
 18 (9th Cir. 1999) ("As with ratification, a plaintiff must establish a genuine issue of
 19 material fact as to the question whether the final policymaker acted with deliberate
 20 indifference to the subordinate's constitutional violations.") In the cases cited by
 21 Plaintiffs where it was established that a policymaker ratified a subordinate's
 22 conduct, the policymaker *affirmatively* and *actively* approved the conduct that was
 23 alleged to have caused the constitutional deprivation. For example, in *Christie v.*
 24 *Iopa* the plaintiff alleged that the deputy prosecutor, Iopa, and prosecutor, Kimura,
 25 violated his constitutional rights by subjecting him to criminal prosecution because
 26 he advocated for the legalization of marijuana. *Id.* at 1240. The court found that a
 27 "rational trier of fact could conclude that Kimura affirmatively approved of Iopa's
 28 alleged ongoing constitutional violations" (the prosecution of the plaintiff) because

1 Kimura took part in the plea negotiations with plaintiff and Kimura called to report
 2 the plaintiff's private investigator after the investigator purchased commercial
 3 sterilized hemp seeds for purposes of plaintiff's defense. *Id.* at 1240. In other
 4 words, Kimura seemingly ratified Iopa's conduct because he was actively involved
 5 in conduct that was potentially intended to further the constitutional violations.

6 Likewise, in *Hyland v. Wonder*, the plaintiff, an assistant to Sweeney, the
 7 chief probation officer at a juvenile hall, reported problems at a juvenile hall and
 8 the juvenile hall's director's mistakes and failures. 117 F.3d 405, 408 (9th Cir.
 9 1997), *opinion amended on denial of reh'g*, 127 F.3d 1135 (9th Cir. 1997). During
 10 the relevant time, judge Wonder was the supervising judge of the juvenile court. *Id.*
 11 After his report, the plaintiff alleged that he banned from the juvenile court, a
 12 decision that was approved by Wonder, and that Wonder and Sweeney, among
 13 others, decided to terminate him. *Id.* The retaliation continued after his employment
 14 as Sweeney, who had written a letter in support of the plaintiff's application for a
 15 pardon, was now actively working to ensure the application was denied. *Id.* The
 16 plaintiff reported this to Wonder, who did not act. Additionally, Wonder prevented
 17 the plaintiff from obtaining later employment that would require the plaintiff to
 18 visit the juvenile hall. *Id.* The court found that a rational jury, in light of the
 19 allegations, could find that Wonder ratified the conduct that deprived the plaintiff of
 20 his constitutional rights. *Id.* at 416.

21 Here, as a preliminary matter, there is no evidence that either Janecka or
 22 McCusker were present during the after-action review as their names are not listed
 23 under the names of the reviewers. (*See* Decl. of James Janecka, Ex. E [After-Action
 24 Review Report Use of Force/Restraints related to the June 12, 2017, incident].)
 25 Moreover, the review demonstrates that the participants reviewed the video
 26 recording of the incident, staff reports, medical reports, confrontation avoidance
 27 measures, the supervisor's report, and then checked a box, which was one of two
 28 boxes with preprinted language next to it, which indicated it was determined the

actions were “reasonable and appropriate.” (*Id.*) Thereafter, “J. Johnson” signed and dated the After-Action Review Report, which documented the review. (*Id.*) This limited degree of review is not even remotely as affirmative or active as the conduct detailed in *Christie v. Iopa* or *Hyland v. Wonder* that was deemed to raise a genuine dispute as to whether the policymakers ratified the alleged constitutional violations. If the Court adopts Plaintiffs’ extremely low threshold for ratification, any cursory review of a use of force incident by command staff would be deemed ratification and subject a municipality to liability. This simply cannot be the standard. Moreover, the underlying conduct must be unconstitutional to result in liability for ratification.

C. Plaintiffs’ Claim For Failure To Train Is Unsupported By The Evidence.

Plaintiffs allege GEO failed to train (1) Diaz and Campos on the meaning of a “rebellion” and “disturbance,” (2) Campos on the safe distance to stand away from a subject when deploying OC spray, and (3) supervisory staff because GEO failed to provide “refresher training every two years to officials with OC spray.”

A municipality’s failure to train its employees must amount to “deliberate indifference to the rights of persons with whom the [untrained employees] come into contact.” *Canton v. Harris*, 489 U.S. 378, 388 (1989); *Flores v. County of Los Angeles*, 758 F.3d 1154, 1159 (9th Cir. 2014) (“Under this standard, [the plaintiff] must allege facts to show that the County and [Sheriff] ‘disregarded the known or obvious consequence that a particular omission in their training program would cause [municipal] employees to violate citizens’ constitutional rights.’” (citation omitted)). To show “deliberate indifference,” a plaintiff must prove that “the need for more or different training is so obvious, and the inadequacy so likely to result in the violation of constitutional rights, that the policymakers of the city can reasonably be said to have been deliberately indifferent to the need.” *See City of Canton*, 489 U.S. at 390. Only then “can such a shortcoming be properly thought of

1 as a city ‘policy or custom’ that is actionable under § 1983.” *Canton*, 489 U.S. at
 2 389. Still yet, the plaintiff must demonstrate that the deficiency in the training
 3 program must be closely related to the ultimate injury. *Id.* at 387, 379 (“[W]e
 4 conclude, as have all the Courts of Appeals that have addressed this issue, that there
 5 are limited circumstances in which an allegation of a ‘failure to train’ can be the
 6 basis for liability under § 1983).

7 First, Plaintiffs conclude that because GEO did not provide staff with the
 8 definition of the widely known and self-explanatory terms of riot or rebellion, GEO
 9 failed to train staff on when it was appropriate to deploy OC spray as riots and
 10 rebellions are listed in GEO’s policies at events that warrant the use of OC spray.
 11 However, there is no evidence that the need for “more or different training is so
 12 obvious, and the inadequacy so likely to result in the violation of constitutional
 13 rights, that [GEO] can reasonably be said to have been deliberately indifferent to
 14 the need.” *See City of Canton*, 489 U.S. at 390. To the contrary, the evidence
 15 demonstrates that while the definition of the terms was not provided, GEO staff,
 16 including Campos and Diaz, were able to recognize and identify a riot, rebellion,
 17 and major disturbance; thus, GEO staff were aware of when it was appropriate to
 18 deploy OC spray. (*See* Pls. Ex. 14 [Sgt. Campos Dep.] at 81:11-13, 141:22-142:4;
 19 *see also* Doc. 108-6 [Diaz Decl.] ¶¶ 17-32; Doc. 108-7 [Campos Decl.] ¶¶ 5-14).
 20 Moreover, Plaintiffs fail to demonstrate that GEO’s failure to provide a written
 21 definition of “riot” or “rebellion” caused a constitutional deprivation.

22 Second, to support their argument that GEO did not train on the safe distance
 23 to stand when deploying OC spray, Plaintiffs ignore GEO’s policies and procedures
 24 that GEO staff are trained on and the training materials that they admitted into
 25 evidence, which demonstrate GEO does in fact train its staff on the safe distance to
 26 stand away from a subject when deploying OC spray. (*See* Pls. Ex. “1” [GEO’s
 27 Training Materials] at GEO 02117.) Instead of relying on the GEO policies and
 28 training materials, Plaintiffs rely on Campos’ deposition testimony where he stated

1 he could not *recall* the distance that GEO trained personnel to stand when
 2 deploying OC spray. (See e.g., Pls. Ex. 14 [Sgt. Campos Dep.] 16:4-15
 3 (demonstrating Campos stated that *during his time in the military*, it was acceptable
 4 to deploy OC spray when he was 3-5 feet away.) Yet, his lack of recollection is not
 5 unsurprising given he has not worked for GEO since 2017. (See Doc. 108-7
 6 [Campos Decl.] ¶ 2). This is hardly material evidence of a failure to train.

7 Finally, the admissible evidence demonstrates GEO supervisory staff are
 8 adequately trained on use of force policies. This training not only includes pre-
 9 service training, but 40 hours of annual in-service training that covers use of force
 10 policies. (See Doc. 108-6 [Diaz Decl.] ¶¶ 3, 7-8; Doc. 108-7 [Campos Decl.] ¶3;
 11 Aguado Decl. in support of Reply (hereinafter “Aguado Decl. ISO Reply”), Ex.
 12 “D” at 24:21-25:2).

13 **D. There Is No Evidence That GEO Maintained Policies That Caused**
 14 **A Deprivation Of Plaintiffs’ Rights.**

15 In their Opposition, Plaintiffs argue GEO’s “policy” of “not having cold
 16 water inside the facility” caused a constitutional deprivation: inability to
 17 decontaminate Plaintiffs after the use of OC spray, which Plaintiffs allege is a
 18 Fourth Amendment violation. Additionally, Plaintiffs argue GEO’s policy of
 19 blocking the Plaintiffs’ telephone calls regarding their alleged hunger strike and
 20 excessive force resulted in a constitutional deprivation (i.e., a violation of their First
 21 Amendment rights to exercise free speech).⁷ Plaintiffs’ arguments are unsupported

22
 23 ⁷ It is unclear whether Plaintiffs are alleging GEO had an unconstitutional policy
 24 regarding blocking Plaintiffs calls or whether Plaintiffs are alleging a GEO
 25 policymaker ratified a constitutional deprivation (blocking calls for retaliatory
 26 purposes in violation of the First Amendment). To the extent Plaintiffs are alleging
 27 *for the first time* that Barry Belt caused an unconstitutional deprivation by placing
 28 restrictions on Plaintiffs calls, this claim will fail. (Doc. # 117:16-23, 18:6-7.) As
 demonstrated in the moving papers, in the detention context, a viable claim of First
 Amendment retaliation requires Plaintiffs to demonstrate GEO took some adverse
 action against Plaintiffs because of their protected conduct, that such action chilled
 their exercise of their First Amendment rights, and the action did not reasonably
 advance a legitimate correctional goal. *Rhodes v. Robinson*, 408 F.3d 559, 567-568
 (9th Cir. 2005). “To prevail on a retaliation claim, a plaintiff must show that his

1 by the evidence and law.

2 Here, there is no evidence that GEO had a “policy” of decontaminating
3 detainees using “hot” water; moreover, the evidence demonstrates that GEO staff
4 used cold water to decontaminate Plaintiffs. (*See* Aguado Decl. ISO Reply, Ex. “E”
5 [Juarez Dep.] at 61-62; see also Doc. 108-6 [Diaz Decl.] ¶ 41 (demonstrating that
6 irrespective of the temperature of the water, water may reactivate the tingling
7 sensation from the spray.) Additionally, GEO’s policies and procedures make clear
8 that calls may only be restricted *unless* necessary for security purposes or to
9 maintain orderly and fair access to telephones. (*See* Doc. # 108-1 [GEO and City
10 Separate Statement], Nos. 29-33.)

11 **IV. PLAINTIFFS FAIL TO STATE AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE**
12 **THAT THE CITY CANNOT BE VICARIOUSLY LIABLE [CLAIMS**
13 **ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, EIGHT, AND TEN].**⁸

14 In their Opposition, Plaintiffs abandon their argument that the City is liable

15
16 protected conduct was ‘the ‘substantial’ or ‘motivating’ factor behind the
17 defendant's conduct. [Citation omitted.]” *Brodheim v. Cry*, 584 F.3d 1262, 1271
18 (9th Cir. 2009). Plaintiffs fail to demonstrate Belt restricted their calls because they
19 engaged in a protected activity as there is no evidence to support this argument. To
20 the contrary, the evidence demonstrates Belt blocked a very limited number of calls
21 that were deemed security threats because Plaintiffs were discussing a
22 strike/demonstration at the Facility. (*See* Aguado Decl. ISO Reply, Ex. “J” [Phone
23 Logs] at 1-4.) Additionally, during the time period that Plaintiffs claim their calls
24 were blocked (after the June 12, 2017, strike), the evidence demonstrates they made
25 numerous calls. (*Id.* at 5-41 [logs of Plaintiffs calls].) Moreover, before Belt can
26 restrict a call, he must get approval from ICE (Belt can recommend a restriction
27 to the Facility Administrator, who can then make a recommendation to ICE; ICE
28 ultimately determines whether a call should be restricted). (*See* Doc. # 108-1 [GEO
and City Separate Statement], Nos. 29-33.) There is no evidence that the Facility
Administrator was aware of Plaintiffs’ alleged protected conduct (their complaints)
or Belt’s alleged retaliatory intent, which prevents Plaintiffs from establishing that
the alleged protected conduct was the motivating factor behind defendants’ conduct
and/or that the Facility Administrator ratified Belt’s constitutional deprivation. (*See*
Doc. 108-4 [Janecka Decl.] ¶¶14-19.) Even if Plaintiffs could establish Belt/the
Facility Administrator intended to restrict their calls for retaliatory purposes, the
casual chain is broken because ICE ultimately decides the restrictions to be placed
on phones/calls. (*See* Doc. # 108-1 [GEO and City Separate Statement], Nos. 29-
33.)

⁸ There is no evidence that GEO is an agent of the City’s. (*See e.g.*, Doc. # 108-4
[Janecka Decl.]; Doc. # 108-8 [Hart Decl.].) As such, Plaintiffs argument
concerning GEO being an agent is without merit. (Doc. # 117 at 21-22.)

1 for the conduct of GEO under Government Code §§ 815.2 and 920. Additionally,
 2 Plaintiffs acknowledge that to hold the City liable under Government Code § 815.4,
 3 Plaintiffs must identify an exception to the “general rule” in California that “the
 4 employer of an independent contractor is not liable for physical harm caused to
 5 another by an act or omission of the contractor or his servants.” *McCarty v. State of*
 6 *California Dep’t of Transp.*, 164 Cal. App. 4th 955, 970 (2008). The only exception
 7 that Plaintiffs identify is the “regulated hirer” exception; however, this exception
 8 does *not* apply.⁹ (See Doc. #118:15-21:10.)

9 The regulated hirer exception imputes liability to the hirer of an independent
 10 contractor when the work delegated to the contractor involves an unreasonable risk
 11 of harm to others and can lawfully be performed only under a license or franchise
 12 granted by public authority. See e.g., *Eli v. Murphy*, 39 Cal. 2d 598 (1952); *Vargas*
 13 *v. FMI, Inc.*, 233 Cal. 4th 638, 652-654 (2015); *Serna v. Pettey Leach Trucking,*
 14 *Inc.*, 110 Cal. 4th 1475, 1486 (2003); Rest. 2d Torts § 428. This exception has only
 15 been applied in cases involving trucking and taxi companies, which is evidenced by
 16 the cases cited by Plaintiffs. *Id.*

17 To support their argument, Plaintiffs cite *Secchi v. United Independent Taxi*
 18 *Drivers, Inc.*, 214 Cal. Rptr. 3d 379, 381 (Cal. App. 2d Dist. 2017), *review denied*
 19 (May 17, 2017), which held, in short, that local regulations that require taxi
 20 companies to impose controls on its drivers may be taken into account in
 21 determining whether taxi companies may be vicariously liable for the negligence of
 22 their independent contractor drivers under an agency theory. *Secchi* involved a
 23 plaintiff that was in an auto collision with taxi driven by Tonakanian. Tonakanian
 24

25 ⁹ In Plaintiffs’ discussion on the regulated hirer discussion, Plaintiffs also include
 26 an argument that the City has a non-delegable and/or a special duty to Plaintiffs.
 27 Plaintiffs’ “duty” argument is *only* applicable to their negligence claims (claims
 28 three and ten, arguably) and is not applicable to their claims for battery, assault,
 IIED, and violation of the Bane Act (claims one, two, four, and eight). Plaintiffs’
 argument regarding the City’s alleged duty to Plaintiffs will be discussed further
 below.

1 owned his taxi and was, on paper, an independent contractor for United. *Id.* at 382.
 2 However, the evidence demonstrated that United had *considerable* control over
 3 Tonakanian's work as a driver. *Id.* at 382. United argued that it was not liable for
 4 Tonakanian's conduct because "when a taxi company exercises control over its
 5 drivers in order to comply with public regulations or third party requirements, such
 6 activity cannot be considered in determining whether an agency or employment
 7 relationship exists." *Id.* at 858. The court disagreed with United after analyzing
 8 various state and federal cases that *exclusively* involved taxi companies and their
 9 independent contractors/employees, and held that such information could be
 10 considered when determining whether the taxi driver/independent contractor is in
 11 fact an agent of the taxi company. *Id.* at 385-388. The court held Tonakanian was
 12 United's agent because there was substantial evidence that United controlled
 13 significant aspects of its Tonakanian's work, including United's ability to terminate
 14 drivers, the ability to fine or discipline drivers, and the training manual provided to
 15 all drivers. *Id.* at 391.

16 Here, the regulated hirer exception is not applicable. The City's contractor,
 17 GEO, was not performing work under a license or franchise granted by public
 18 authority, and there is no legal authority that extends the regulated hirer exception
 19 to situations similar to the facts at issue.¹⁰ Moreover, *Secchi v. United Independent*
 20 *Taxi Drivers, Inc.* is inapposite as there is no evidence that GEO's employees were
 21 agents of the City (i.e., there is no evidence that the City controlled any aspect of
 22 GEO's or its employees work). Consequently there is no legal basis to hold the City
 23 vicariously liable for the conduct of GEO's employees and, thus, Plaintiffs' state
 24 law claims for battery, assault, negligent training, IIED, violation of the Bane Act,
 25

26 ¹⁰ Plaintiffs cite Section 1231.3.4 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations
 27 within their discussion of the regulated hirer exception. (Doc. # 117 at 19:20-26.)
 28 However, Title 24 does *not* govern the Facility and, thus, should not be considered
 when evaluating Defendants' motion. The Facility is under the jurisdiction of the
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

1 and negligence (claims one through four, eight, and ten) must be summarily
2 adjudicated against the City.

3 **V. PLAINTIFFS CANNOT ESTABLISH THE CITY HAD A NON-**
4 **DELEGABLE AND/OR SPECIAL DUTY TO THEM [CLAIMS**
5 **THREE AND TEN].**

6 Plaintiffs argue the City can be liable for their negligence claims (claims
7 three and ten) because the City had a (1) non-delegable duty to; and (2) special
8 relationship with Plaintiffs. (Doc. # 117 at 20:11-15, 20: 24-21:2, 22:9-21.) In
9 support of this argument, Plaintiffs primarily rely on *Harrelson v. Dupnik, Giraldo*
10 *v. Dept. of Corrections & Rehab.*, and *Estate of Osuna v. Cty. of Stanislaus* to
11 support their argument. However, these cases demonstrate that the City did *not*
12 have a duty to Plaintiffs and, thus, cannot be liable for Plaintiffs' claims that sound
13 in negligence (claims three and ten).

14 For example, in *Harrelson v. Dupnik*, 970 F. Supp. 2d 953, 973 (D. Ariz.
15 2013), the court held that the county was vicariously liable for the alleged medical
16 malpractice of its contractor *at a county-run* juvenile housing unit because there
17 was a non-delegable duty between the county and the plaintiff, an inmate at its
18 facility. The court held that “[f]or vicarious liability to exist under the non-
19 delegable duty doctrine, a statute, regulation, contract, franchise, or charter must
20 impose the duty upon the principal or the duty must be non-delegable under the
21 common law.” *Id.* at 973. The court relied on *Arizona* case law that cited specific
22 Arizona statutes to conclude “*Arizona* has recognized that public policy requires
23 that in situations involving involuntary detainment or commitment a county remain
24 ‘ultimately liable’ for any breach of duty of care.” *Id.* at 974. The court emphasized
25 the duty that the county undertakes for *its inmates*. *Id.* at 975.

26 In *Giraldo v. Dept. of Corrections & Rehab.*, 85 Cal. Rptr. 3d 371, 382 (Cal.
27 App. 1st Dist. 2008), the plaintiff was in-custody at a California prison and brought
28 suit against the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

1 and various CDCR personnel. The plaintiff's negligence claim was premised on the
 2 existence of a special relationship between the prison employees and herself. *Id.* at
 3 382. On demurrer, CDCR and its employees argued that there was no duty owed to
 4 plaintiff and the court held as follows:

5 "[T]here is a special relationship between jailer and
 6 prisoner which imposes a duty of care on the jailer to the
 7 prisoner. Who comes within the category of jailer is not
 8 before us, nor is the question of what law pertains to non-
 jailer defendants—questions that could not be decided on
 this record in any event."

9 *Id.* at 387–88. In other words, the court did not define which parties fell within the
 10 ambit of the term "jailer" but nevertheless acknowledged the CDCR and its
 11 employees had a special relationship with the plaintiff because plaintiff was a
 12 prisoner at their facility and within their custody.

13 In *Estate of Osuna v. Cty. of Stanislaus*, 392 F. Supp. 3d 1162 (E.D. Cal.
 14 2019), the plaintiffs argued an individual defendant, Christianson, breached a duty
 15 owed to the decedent by hiring, retaining, and failing to adequately train and
 16 supervise doe defendants. *Id.* at 1181. The plaintiffs argued the defendant county
 17 was liable on a *respondeat superior* theory. *Id.* The court held California law does
 18 not recognize a general duty of care on the part of supervisors with respect to
 19 negligent hiring, retention, or training and, thus, a plaintiff must allege a special
 20 relationship in order to bring a negligent hiring claim. *Id.* at 1182. The court
 21 opined:

22 The question is not whether the arresting officers had a
 23 special relationship with the decedent, but rather whether
 24 the supervisors responsible for hiring, training,
 25 disciplining, and so forth had such a special relationship.
 26 Here, plaintiffs offer no argument as to how defendant
 27 Christianson's duty of care towards the decedent
 amounted to anything more than the general duty to use
 reasonable care.

28 *Id.* at 1183. The court further held that other district courts have declined to find

1 such a relationship under circumstances similar to those presented. *Id.* at 1183. The
 2 court dismissed the plaintiffs' claim with leave to amend to see if he could
 3 demonstrate a special relationship. *Id.*

4 Here, *Harrelson* is inapplicable as the court in *Harrelson* relied on Arizona
 5 state authorities to reach its holding, and Plaintiffs have failed to put forth
 6 comparable California authorities. More importantly, unlike the plaintiff in
 7 *Harrelson* that was deemed to be the county's inmate because he was at a county-
 8 run facility, Plaintiffs were not the City's detainees but were held under the
 9 auspices of ICE. As demonstrated above, the evidence demonstrates that Plaintiffs
 10 were *not* at a facility run by the City. (*See* Doc. # 108-2 [GEO and City's App.], Ex.
 11 "A" [Detainee Handbook] at 5; Ex. "M" [Services Contract].) The Facility is
 12 indisputably run by GEO/ICE and, accordingly, Plaintiffs were GEO's/ICE's
 13 detainees. *Id.* Similarly, in *Giraldo* the CDCR and its employees managed and
 14 operated the jail where the plaintiff was injured. In that scenario, the court
 15 categorized the CDCR/its employees as the "jailer" and found a special
 16 relationship. Again, the same cannot be said here. Plaintiffs were not at a facility
 17 that was managed and operated by the City or State. (*See* Doc. # 108-2 [GEO and
 18 City's App.], Ex. "A" [Detainee Handbook] at 5; Ex. "M" [Services Contract].)
 19 Finally, there is no evidence that the City had a special relationship with Plaintiffs
 20 (e.g., there is no evidence the City or its employees provided training or supervision
 21 to GEO's employees) beyond the general duty to use reasonable care. *Estate of*
 22 *Osuna v.*, 392 F. Supp. 3d at 1183.

23 **VI. PLAINTIFFS' VICARIOUS LIABILITY CLAIM AGAINST GEO** 24 **FAILS.**

25 An "employer's vicarious liability is based solely on the employee's
 26 wrongful act; the employer cannot be liable when the verdict in favor of the
 27 employee determines that the employee did no wrong." *Perez v. City of Huntington*
 28 *Park*, 7 Cal. App. 4th 817, 820 (1992). Because Plaintiffs have failed to

1 demonstrate GEO employees did batter, assault, or negligently use unreasonable
2 force against Plaintiffs, their vicarious liability claim against GEO must likely fail.

3 **VII. PLAINTIFFS FAIL TO ESTABLISH THEIR FAILURE TO TRAIN**
4 **AND SUPERVISE CLAIM AGAINST GEO [THIRD CLAIM].**

5 An employer is not liable merely because its employee is incompetent,
6 vicious or careless. A duty of care arises only when the risk of harm by the
7 employee was reasonably foreseeable, that is, only when the employer knows or
8 should know of the risk that employee poses. *See Federico v. Sup.Ct. (Jenry G.)*, 59
9 CalApp4th 1207, 1214 (1997). Plaintiffs argue that Diaz and Campos were not
10 properly trained because they forgot definitions of terms in their depositions and
11 provided personal opinions on training that were not consistent with GEO policies.
12 (Doc. # 117 at 23:26-24:26.) This is not sufficient to establish a claim for negligent
13 training and supervision as Plaintiffs have not demonstrated GEO knew or should
14 have known of the risk they allegedly posed. Moreover, any deficiency in training
15 must also cause damage and Plaintiffs have not made this showing through
16 admissible evidence. For this reason, Plaintiffs third claim should be summarily
17 adjudicated.

18 Dated: December 6, 2019

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19
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21
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